

**THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
CLEVELAND 6, OHIO**

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Sent to Northern Ohio
FOR RELEASE

*PD 7/9
Press 7/8
Sun Press 7/13*

For release: July 7 or after

**LIFETIME OF PAUL KLEE WORK
IS CURRENTLY AT ART MUSEUM**

A retrospective exhibition of 181 works by Swiss-born artist Paul Klee (1879-1940) will be shown at The Cleveland Museum of Art beginning July 7 and continuing through August 13. It is one of two simultaneous Klee retrospectives organized by the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum of Art in New York. The exhibit currently showing in Cleveland opened at the Pasadena Art Museum and is now touring the United States. The other was shown at the Guggenheim and is now in Basle, Switzerland. More than 40 American and European museums, galleries and private collectors are among the lenders to the exhibit, which includes much of Klee's finest work, most of which was produced from 1901 to 1940. A wide range of media is represented, including oil, watercolor, gouache, as well as the mixed techniques characteristic of the artist. Drawings and prints are also included as a further representation of the nearly 9,000 items that this most prolific artist executed.

Commenting on Klee's work, the introductory text to the exhibition's illustrated catalog states: Klee "has been called the greatest realist of our time . . . although his realism is concerned with the essence of things, rather than with their surface appearance." His themes "encompass the universe . . . and mirror almost every area of human thought; he visualizes the rise, evolution, and fate of human, plant, and animal life, as well as their transformation into primeval and potential states. The world of art itself becomes his subject, as do the world of music and poetry, the whole realm of the exact sciences, physics and mathematics, geology and cosmology, the vistas of history, and the intricacies of pure invention." Through his work runs the philosophy of the Near East and Mohammedan religion --- the idea of eternity and the oneness of all living things.

Klee divided his residence between Germany and Switzerland. He studied in Munich, traveled sporadically throughout his life to Paris, and throughout North Africa. In 1920 he was appointed to the faculty of the German Bauhaus by its founder Walter Gropius. When the Nazis came to power in Germany he returned to Bern, where he had been born and where he died shortly after the outbreak of World War II.

Release #015

M. 6/19/67



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